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TELEGRAM

March 05, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1092 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: OIC SUMMIT UAE INITIATIVE
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01092

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: AMB DCM ECON POL
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ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

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OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZN RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8708
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0588
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0649
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001092

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD; NEA/RA, INR
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: OIC SUMMIT UAE INITIATIVE

¶1. SUMMARY: THE OIC SUMMIT IN DOHA RECEIVED PRIMARY AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. NEWS REPORTING AND EDITORIALS STRESSED THAT THE ISSUE OF PALESTINE SHOULD ALSO BE A MAIN CONCERN OF THIS SUMMIT. EDITORIALS CONDEMNED ARAB AND

MUSLIM ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE. AN "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE ARAB SUMMIT'S RESPONSE TO THE UAE INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

¶12. COMMENTING ON THE OIC SUMMIT IN DOHA, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/05:

".... THE OIC SUMMIT IN DOHA COMES RIGHT AFTER THE ARAB SUMMIT, WHICH DID NOT ADD ANYTHING TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS THAT FACES THE ARAB AND ISLAMIC WORLDS. THE SUMMIT ALSO DID NOT DEAL PROPERLY WITH THE ONLY INITIATIVE (THE UAE'S INITIATIVE) THAT AIMS TO END THE CRISIS WE ARE ALL FACING. THIS INITIATIVE STATED CLEARLY THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING A UNIFIED AND COURAGEOUS STAND, FAR FROM ANY CONTROVERSY, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND LANDS FROM ANY CONSPIRACIES THAT THREATEN ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE ... WILL THE OIC SUMMIT REACH THE LEVEL OF CHALLENGES IT FACES, OR WILL IT REMAIN LIKE ANY OTHER ARAB AND ISLAMIC SUMMIT?"

¶13. ASSERTING THE OIC SUMMIT'S OBLIGATION TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/05:

".... THE OIC SUMMIT IN DOHA SHOULD ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE SINCE IT IS AN ARAB AND ISLAMIC CAUSE. THIS SUMMIT SHOULD REALIZE THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE PALESTINIAN LANDS WITH NO ARABIC OR ISLAMIC REACTION WILL LEAD TO A CRISIS WORSE THAN THAT WHICH OCCURRED IN 1948 ... THE ACTS OF SHARON'S CABINET TO KILL THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND PEOPLE HAVE REACHED A VERY CRUCIAL LEVEL ..."

¶14. DESCRIBING THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THE PALESTINIAN CRISIS, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/05:

".... THE U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PALESTINE SINCE IT IS THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE AUTHORITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WHENEVER THE WORLD COMMUNITY WAKES UP TO MAKE ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS DEEDS, THE U.S. THREATENS THIS WITH THE WEAPON OF ITS VETO. IT IS SHAMEFUL FOR THE U.S. TO ASK ISRAEL ONLY FOR SELF-RESTRRAINT IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT ISRAELI VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS."

¶15. COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/04:

".... HOW DO WE EXPECT ISRAEL TO CHANGE THE BLOODY POLICY SEEING THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION TOWARDS ITS KILLING OF UNARMED PALESTINIANS AS MERE STATEMENTS OF CONDEMNATIONS FROM POWERLESS COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NO REAL EFFECT ON THE ISRAELI POLICY. SINCE ISRAEL HAS THE APPROVAL AND FULL SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR KILLING PALESTINIAN CHILDREN, WOMEN, AND ELDERS WITH 'M-16'S PROVIDED BY THE U.S., ISRAEL DOES NOT CARE AND HAS NO RED LINES TO INVADE THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP AND MUSLIM HOLY SITES IN OCCUPIED JERUSALEM... IT IS NOT ONLY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY, BUT ALSO THAT OF THE ARABS..."

¶16. NOTING INCREASING SUPPORT FOR SHEIKH ZAYED'S INITIATIVE IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/04:

".... WITH THE INCREASED VOICES REQUESTING A THOROUGH REVISION OF THE TECHNIQUES ADOPTED AT ARAB SUMMITS, WHICH USUALLY ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER DIFFERENCES ... IN THE LATEST SUMMIT, THE UAE INITIATIVE IS THE ONLY HOPE LEFT FOR ARABS TO DEAL WITH THEIR PROBLEMS IN AN OBJECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE WAY, FAR FROM THE TYPICAL COURTEOUS BEHAVIOR FOR WHICH THE ARAB PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PAYING A DEAR PRICE ..."

¶17. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE," ENGLISH-DAILY, DUBAI-BASED GULF NEWS EDITORIALIZED ON 03/05:

"IRAQ IS DELIBERATELY TRYING THE PATIENCE OF THE HAWKS IN THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH ADMINISTRATIONS, WHICH IS A DANGEROUS THING TO DO AT SUCH AS SENSITIVE TIME. THE MAJORITY OF WORLD OPINION IS SIDED WITH THE IRAQI PEOPLE, WAR IS NOT A PLEASANT THING TO CONTEMPLATE AND MERELY ILLUSTRATES THE INABILITY OF THE SO-CALLED CIVILIZED SOCIETY TO RESOLVE THEIR DISPUTES ... IT SEEMS HISTORY TEACHES US NOTHING ... THE ARGUMENT FOR GOING TO WAR HAS NOT BEEN MADE: THE PUBLIC REMAINS UNCONVINCED. ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED, THEY SHOULD BE EXAMINED FIRST, BEFORE ANY RUSH TO WAR."

WAHBA